

We claim:

1. An automated method for determining whether to allow a portion of software stored in a computer-readable memory to access to a portion of a nonvolatile memory, comprising:
 - 5 (a) receiving a reference to said portion of software wishing to receive access to said nonvolatile memory portion;
 - (b) computing a cryptographic hash of said software portion;
 - (c) comparing said computed cryptographic hash with a value stored in said nonvolatile memory;
 - 10 (d) if said computed cryptographic hash matches said stored value, executing said software portion with access to said nonvolatile memory portion; and
 - (e) if said computed cryptographic hash does not match said stored value, not allowing said software portion to access said nonvolatile memory.

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